REMARKS

The Office Action in the above-identified application has been carefully considered and this amendment has been presented to place this application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reexamination and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1–16 are in the present application. It is submitted that these claims were patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. The changes to the claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. sections 101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

Claims 1–16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Staats (U.S. Patent 6,618,750). The present invention is an information processing system comprising a computer connected to an amplifier in an audio visual (AV) system through an external serial bus (e.g. IEEE 1394) connection. The present invention has a "main information processing device being an amplifier" having "a plurality of terminals for connecting to a plurality of sub-information processing devices with a corresponding plurality of connecting means." (Claim 1; Claims 4, 7, 9, 12, and 15 contain similar limitations) In other words, the amplifier has various different types of external terminals for connecting to other AV devices. Typically, these external terminals are not of types supporting digital bus commands. Hence, there are no drivers for the devices connected to the external terminals. Whereas, Staats discloses a system of AV devices, which may be connected by different types of buses, and a method of collecting driver
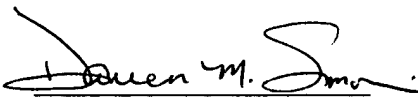
information for communication between the AV devices. Staats does not discuss a system having devices connected using "various different types of external terminals." In other words, the present invention allows for selection of devices connected to the system through terminals rather than devices which are connected through buses as taught in Staats. Further, the present invention's amplifier has a memory containing "name data indicating names of said terminals." The computer (control device) requests, receives and displays this name data on the external terminals from the amplifier. In this manner, a user of the system can select various AV devices from the name data displayed on the computer. The computer then sends commands to the amplifier to switch to the selected AV device (sub-information processing devices). While Staats discloses distributing driver information for each node in the system (Figure 1), it does not disclose receiving information (such as name data) on devices connected to external terminals at each node. Moreover, Staats fails to disclose "displaying the names of said terminals on a display means [of the computer] based on said name data." (Claims 1, 7, 9, and 15) Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Staats fails to anticipate the present invention and the rejected claims should now be allowed.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application as now presented is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

No additional fees are deemed to be required for the filing of this amendment, but if such are, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,
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